

REMARKS

In accordance with the forgoing, claims 1, 17 and 33 have been amended. Claims 1, 3-17, 19-33 and 35-48 are pending and under consideration.

I. Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 3-17, 19-33 and 35-48 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,275,620 to Darby et al. ("Darby"). Applicants respectfully assert that the claims of the present invention are patentably distinguishable from Darby and the rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to a connector assembly and medical device that includes a deflectable connector clip including a first arm, a second arm, and a top portion extending between the first arm and the second arm, the connector clip capable of being deflected from a first position corresponding to a first relative position of the first arm and the second arm to a second position corresponding to a second relative position of the first arm and the second arm, wherein the first arm extends from the top portion to a first end and the second arm extends from the top portion to a second end, and wherein the connector clip includes a first side wall along the first end and a second side wall along the second end, the first arm and the second arm being offset and partially overlapping so that the first side wall is adjacent to and engaged against the second side wall when the connector clip is in the first position, and the first arm and the second arm being partially spread apart and aligned so that the first end abuts the second end and the first side wall is not adjacent to and engaged against the second side wall when the connector clip is in the second position.

Darby teaches a connector formed of two separate cantilever flexible strips 12 and 14, joined together at their proximal ends 20 and 32 by rivets 42, and having respective holes 24, 26 along the distal end that are slightly misaligned. A manual compression force is exerted on the strips to cause alignment of the holes 24, 26 to receive the electrode tip of the lead therein, and once manual compression is stopped, the resiliency of the strips 12 and 14

causes them to try to move apart, mechanically and electrically connecting the electrode tip.

Prior to being joined, neither of the two strips 12 and 14 alone (See FIG. 2 of Darby) have the features of the present invention, such as the first arm, the second arm, and the top portion extending between the first arm and the second arm, for example. Only when the strips 12 and 14 are joined (See FIG. 3 of Darby) can it be argued that the connector of Darby even comes close to having these features, although Applicants respectfully assert that Darby does not teach the features of the present invention even when strips 12 and 14 are joined. In particular, Darby does not teach a first arm and a second arm being partially spread apart and aligned so that a first end of the first arm abuts a second end of the second arm and a first side wall along the first end is not adjacent to and engaged against a second side wall along the second end when the connector clip is in the second position, as set forth in the claims of the present invention. Therefore, the claims of the present invention are patentably distinguishable from Darby and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

LAHTI, Jay et al.

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Date

/Michael C. Soldner/
Michael C. Soldner
Reg. No. 41,455
(763) 514-4842
Customer No. 27581